

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 205973  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:DEZWEIFEL:EI :TEXT FROM WHITE HOUSE  
APPROVED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES  
NEA/INS:JRGRAHAME  
S/S-O:TMARTIN

-----094021 150243Z /64

O 160203Z AUG 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 205973

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PEPR, US, XF

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER

1. YOU SHOULD SEEK EARLY APPOINTMENT TO PASS FOLLOWING  
LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO PRIME MINISTER DESAI.  
THERE WILL BE NO SIGNED ORIGINAL OF THIS LETTER. TEXT IS  
SELF-EXPLANATORY IN DISCUSSING CAMP DAVID SUMMIT. LETTER  
IS INTENDED TO BE INFORMATIVE, RATHER THAN INVITATION TO  
SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE; HOWEVER, GUIDANCE ON HANDLING  
QUESTIONS FROM HOST GOVERNMENT WILL BE PROVIDED SEPTEL.  
FYI: SIMILAR (IN SOME CASES IDENTICAL) LETTERS ARE BEING  
SENT TO A NUMBER OF OTHER HEADS OF GOVERNMENT.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER:

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FOLLOWING UP ON OUR JUNE DISCUSSION OF MIDDLE EAST TOPICS,  
I WISH TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME THOUGHTS ON THE FORTHCOMING  
MIDDLE EAST MEETING AT CAMP DAVID.

WE ARE GRATIFIED THAT PRIME MINISTER BEGIN AND PRESIDENT  
SADAT HAVE BOTH RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO THE INVITATION TO  
MEET WITH ME NEXT MONTH IN A MAJOR NEW EFFORT TO ESTABLISH

A FRAMEWORK FOR A MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT. WE HAVE PURPOSELY NOT SET A FIXED DURATION FOR THE TALKS, SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 6, SO AS TO BE ABLE TO ALLOW AS MUCH TIME AS IS NEEDED FOR OUR EFFORTS TO SUCCEED. THIS IS AN ENCOURAGING INDICATION OF THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH ALL PARTIES ARE APPROACHING THIS MEETING.

I EXTENDED THIS INVITATION BECAUSE I BELIEVE WE HAVE REACHED A CRUCIAL POINT IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. NINE MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN OPENED SIGNIFICANT NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR NEGOTIATING WITH THE HISTORIC MEETINGS IN JERUSALEM AND IN ISMAILIA. THE SIDES HAVE MADE PROGRESS TOWARD RESOLVING SOME OF THE ISSUES THAT DIVIDE THEM AT THIS TIME, BUT RECENTLY, AS YOU ARE AWARE, AN IMPASSE WAS THREATENED. I AM CONVINCED THAT WE CANNOT AFFORD AN IMPASSE, SINCE THE POSITIONS WOULD THEN HARDEN AND THE ATMOSPHERE DETERIORATE TO THE POINT WHERE THE PRESENT OPPORTUNITY FOR PEACE COULD WELL BECOME ANOTHER OF THE LOST OPPORTUNITIES THAT HAVE MARKED THE HISTORY OF THIS TRAGIC CONFLICT.

THE OBJECTIVE AT THE CAMP DAVID MEETING WILL REMAIN AS IT HAS BEEN DEFINED BY THE TWO SIDES THEMSELVES IN NEGOTIATIONS THIS YEAR: TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD AN AGREEMENT ON  
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A FRAMEWORK, BASED ON SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242, THAT WOULD ALLOW STEADY PROGRESS TOWARD AGREEMENT ON SPECIFIC ISSUES, WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE AGREED GOAL OF A STABLE, JUST AND COMPREHENSIVE PEACE. SUCH AN AGREED FRAMEWORK MIGHT HELP TO BRING OTHER PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT INTO THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

OUR EXPERIENCE IN TEMPTING TO FACILITATE AND PROMOTE NEGOTIATIONS THIS PAST YEAR HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO CARRY NEGOTIATIONS BEYOND A CERTAIN POINT ON THE CRUCIAL ISSUES UNLESS THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT THEMSELVES CAN BE ENGAGED IN A DIRECT EXCHANGE. THIS WAS ONE OF THE CONSIDERATIONS THAT LED ME TO THE DECISION TO EXTEND INVITATIONS TO THE TWO LEADERS TO MEET WITH ME AT CAMP DAVID. OUR OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENTS AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL WHICH CAN PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR THE NEGOTIATORS ON THE KEY ISSUES. I PLAN TO DO EVERYTHING WITHIN MY POWER TO HELP PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN ACHIEVE THE PROGRESS FOR WHICH WE ARE ALL SEARCHING.

AS WE MOVE INTO THIS CRUCIAL NEW PHASE OF MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS I WANTED TO SHARE WITH YOU MY REASONS FOR

TAKING THIS STEP AND THOUGHTS ABOUT WHAT WE HOPE TO ACCOM-  
PLISH. I KNOW YOU WILL AGREE WITH MY SENSE OF THE IMPOR-

TANCE OF THESE TALKS, WHICH HOLD THE PROSPECT OF A MAJOR  
STEP FORWARD, DESPITE THE REAL DIFFICULTIES. I HOPE THAT  
I CAN COUNT ON YOU FOR UNDERSTANDING AND FULL SUPPORT IN  
THE TASK ON WHICH WE ARE EMBARKING.

WITH MY BEST WISHES,

SINCERELY,

JIMMY CARTER

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END TEXT.  
CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**To:** NEW DELHI  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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